

Message Text

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21

ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 /010 W
----- 059095

P 231215Z AUG 75
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 851
INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
USIA WASHDC
AMCONSUL IBADAN
AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OEXC, NI
SUBJ: VISIT OF DIXON JOHNSON

REF : A. BERG LETTER TO CAO DATED MAY 9, 1975
B. LAGOS 7417 (NOTAL)

1. DIXON JOHNSON HAS CONCLUDED SUCCESSFUL THIRTEEN-DAY NIGERIAN TOUR, DURING WHICH HE MET WITH FEDERAL/STATE MINED OFFICIALS AND UNIVERSITY AND OTHER COUNSELLORS IN LAGOS, IBADAN, KANO, KADUNA, ZARIA AND PORT HARCOURT. COMING AT INCONVENIENT TIME FOR MANY POST CONTACTS -- BEING HEIGHT OF SUMMER VACATION PERIOD -- WE NEVERTHELESS FOUND VISIT MOST WORTHWHILE FROM ALL SIDES AND IT SHOULD RESULT IN GREATER COOPERATION AND BETTER RELATIONSHIPS ALL AROUND ESPECIALLY INPLACE SUCH AS PORT HARCOURT, WHERE POST HAS HAD LIMITED CONTACT. IN EACH CITY JOHNSON ALSO MET WITH PROSPECTIVE UTENNESSEE STUDENTS, SOME OF WHOM TRAVELLED MANY MILES FOR THE MEETINGS.

2. JOHNSON CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO SUCCESS OF VISIT BY HIS ARTICULATENESS, CANDOR AND PERSONAL CHARM. HE IMMEDIATELY ESTABLISHED GOOD RAPPORT WITH PERSONS WITH WHOM HE TALKED, RANGING FROM KANO STATE CHIEF INSPECTOR OF EDUCATION (WHO
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RETURNED THE SAME EVENING TO BPAO'S RESIDENCE FOR ADDITIONAL

TWO HOURS OF INFORMAL DISCUSSION) TO INTERVIEWER ON NBC-TV "LAGOSCOPE" PROGRAM, WHERE HE WAS GIVEN NINE MINUTES ON THIS POPULAR PRIME TIME SHOW.

3. IN MOST SITUATIONS JOHNSON HANDLED HIMSELF WELL. HOWEVER, A FEW TIMES HE PROVED SOMEWHAT NAIVE WITH POTENTIALLY SENSITIVE POLITICAL QUESTIONS WHEN TALKING WITH SOME HIGH LEVEL NIGERIANS. ALTHOUGH NO MAJOR PROBLEMS AROSE, WE REFRAINED FROM DISCUSSING ANYTHING OF SENSITIVE NATURE WITH HIM REGARDING LOCAL SITUATION, AND TRIED TO STEER HIM AWAY FROM SUCH DISCUSSIONS WITH NIGERIANS.

4. IN SUM POST HIGHLY PLEASED WITH VISIT, WHICH OVERCAME OBSTACLES OF POOR TIMING PLUS POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY (E.G. FEDERAL AND STATE MINED'S GAVE ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTIONS, DESPITE CHANGES IN LEADERSHIP TAKING PLACE WITHIN SOME OF THEM). WE NOTE THAT WE INCLUDED TWO AMSPEC'S FOR STUDENT COUNSELLING IN FY-76 CPP, AND WELCOME SUBSEQUENT VISIT BY CONSULTANT SUCH AS ERNIE WILSON, FOREIGN STUDENT ADVISOR OF HOWARD UNIVERSITY, OR OTHER PERSON OF EQUAL CALIBRE.

5. FULL AIRGRAM REPORT FOLLOWS.
CROSBY

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